

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

Michael S. Pinto Conference Room

Members Present:

Theresa Spengler, Chairman (Left at 5:50 p.m.)

Kellie DiPalma Simeone, Vice-Chairman

Douglas Arnold

Liana Fenton

William O'Connell

Also Present:

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Superintendent of Schools

Linda Savastano, Assistant Superintendent

Raquel Pellerin, Business Manager

The Regular School Committee Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Mrs. Spengler. Administrative staff member present were Michelle Fonseca, Donna Chelf, and Linda Beaupre.

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

No “Spotlight on Teaching and Learning” for January 14, 2015.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

No “Proclamations” for January 14, 2015.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

No “Student Activities” for January 14, 2015.

INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger noted the following items of information:

- R.I. Department of Health Youth Risk Behavior Survey**
- Middletown High School Boys’ Football team will be honored on January 20th at the Town Council Meeting.**
- Donation Letters**
- TEMPO**
- February Vacation Camp and April Vacation Camp at Pell School**
- MEC Newsletter**

(Minutes of January 14, 2015 School Committee Meeting, Page Two)

CORRESPONDENCE

No “Correspondence” for January 14, 2015.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. To approve the Consent Agenda. Unanimous vote.

- Approval of Minutes of the December 18, 2014 School Committee Meeting**
- Approval of the following vouchers:**

Voucher Summary-December 2014

Voucher Number Date Total

1187 12/1/2014 \$19,851.40

1186 12/1/2014 \$311,848.45

1185 12/3/2014 \$55,228.33

1184 12/3/2014 \$7,573.53

1183 12/3/2014 \$29,476.98

1182 12/3/2014 \$333,230.12
1202 12/4/2014 \$3,734.36
1201 12/4/2014 \$1,360.88
1189 12/9/2014 \$42,210.38
1191 12/10/2014 \$2,275.00
1190 12/10/2014 \$1,866.98
1207 12/17/2014 \$319,340.31
1206 12/17/2014 \$1,332.00
1205 12/17/2014 \$1,691.58
1204 12/17/2014 \$2,081.12
1203 12/17/2014 \$52,197.92
1208 12/18/2014 \$4,414.50
1221 12/23/2014 \$701.03
1220 12/23/2014 \$643.60
1219 12/23/2014 \$70,166.20
1218 12/23/2014 \$16,158.12
1217 12/23/2014 \$307,223.28
1222 12/30/2014 \$158.20
Total \$1,584,764.27

(Minutes of January 14, 2015 School Committee Meeting, Page Three)

•Approval of Superintendent's Recommendation on Personnel

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

APPOINTMENT AS OF DECEMBER 8, 2014

Caitlin Briggs Grade 5 Teacher, J.H. School (One Year Only)

MIDDLETOWN HIGH SCHOOL ADVISOR APPOINTMENTS AS OF JANUARY 12, 2015

Gail Sullivan-McCune Ten 80 Club Co-Advisor

Allen Waite Ten 80 Club Co-Advisor

APPOINTMENTS AS OF JANUARY 14, 2015

Theresa DeVine 4-Hour Teacher Assistant, Aquidneck School

Angela Varacalli 4-Hour Teacher Assistant, Aquidneck School

APPOINTMENT AS OF JANUARY 7, 2015

Renee Fagan .5 Grade 6 Teacher, J.H. Gaudet School (One Year Only)

RESIGNATION AS OF JANUARY 5, 2015

Beverlee Lavallee 6-Hour Teacher Assistant, J.H. Gaudet School

TRANSFER AS OF JANUARY 6, 2015

**Teresa Gomes From Administrative Assistant, Facilities Department,
to Business Office**

ACTION ITEMS

APPOINT NEGOTIATOR

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee appoint Attorney Benjamin Scungio as Chief Negotiator for the NEAM and Council 94 contracts. Unanimous vote.

(Minutes of January 14, 2015 School Committee Meeting, Page Four)

APPOINT TO NEGOTIATING TEAM

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) William O'Connell. That the School Committee appoint Theresa Spengler and Kellie DiPalma Simeone to the NEAM negotiating team.

BUDGET WORKSHOP DATES

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the Budget Workshop dates. Unanimous vote.

January 20, 2015 - Town Council/School Department Pre-Budget Meeting at 5:30 p.m. at Town Hall

January 29, 2015 - Budget Workshop at 5:00 p.m.

February 12, 2015 - Budget Workshop/School Committee Meeting at 5:00 p.m.

February 26, 2015 - Budget Workshop at 5:00 p.m.

March 5, 2015 - Budget Workshop at 5:00 p.m.

March 17, 2015 - Budget Workshop at 5:00 p.m.

March 19, 2015 - Budget Workshop/School Committee Meeting at 5:00 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

•Impact Fees – Impact Fees are on the Town Council agenda for the meeting on January 20, 2015. Mrs. Spengler said that this needs to be pursued. There have been very productive workshops, but it is important to meet with the new Town Council.

•2015-2016 School Calendar – A survey will be sent to parents, staff,

and community next week regarding the elimination of February vacation, starting in 2016. Mrs. Spengler would like an option to have a 5-day weekend; Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday. Mrs. Simeone suggested the option of having a 3 day, 4 day, or 5 day week instead of naming the days of week.

NEW BUSINESS

- A.L.I.C.E.** – A community meeting will be held on January 29th at 6:30 p.m. at Oliphant Administration. Childcare will be provided.
- Collective Commitments** – Collective Commitments for School Committee Members, parents and community, administrative leadership, certified staff, support staff, and students will be voted on at the February or March School Committee Meeting.
- Pre-School** – Mrs. Kraeger has had discussions with the Newport Superintendent regarding pre-school. There is interest in universal preschool and taking advantage of any grants available. Challenges include space and sustaining the program. This

(Minutes of January 14, 2015 School Committee Meeting, Page Five)

program could be an economic driver for Middletown. We need to work with partners that have an early childhood program. Mrs.

Simeone asked if this is a potential use of impact fees. If something is a mandate you cannot utilize impact fees.

•Pre-Budget Review – The School Committee will present the Pre-Budget information to the Town Council on January 20th. Projected staffing and projected enrollment are requirements. There is a change in revenue/expenditures/state aid. Ms. Pellerin spoke to the town Finance Director. Premiums for health will be released next month. They are projecting a 7% increase. The transportation contract is up this year. There is a projected a 2% tuition increase for Special Education.

A brief recess at was taken at 5:50 p.m. Mrs. Simeone reconvened the meeting at 5:52 p.m.

With regard to Capital Improvement Projects, these have been identified as health and safety needs:

**oHVAC replacement at Oliphant Administration is estimated at \$100K
oHigh school and Gaudet School roof repairs/replacement are \$650,000**

oForest Avenue paving/parking lot is \$400,000

oRoof fans and ventilation at all buildings will cost \$1.35 million

•Legislative Agenda - Mrs. Kraeger reviewed the proposed legislative agenda that will be discussed with the Town Council and State

Legislators. Items include State funding, Housing Aid, binding arbitration, and charter schools. Mrs. Someone suggested changing “Support a moratorium on Charter Schools” to “Support a moratorium on the expansion and creation of Charter Schools”. Mrs. Fenton added that the State should pay the total amount for group home students.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORTS

oCurriculum – Mrs. Savastano uploaded the first set of data information in preparation for PARCC. Testing will begin in March. We will be posting positions to support the van Beuren grant that was recently awarded to Middletown. These 12 positions will be posted internally and will be for the rest of this school year and next year. These are stipend positions.

oFinancial – Copies of the two audits were handed out tonight. There were no issues or recommendations. The Revenue Manual was also handed out and will be presented at the pre-budget meeting.

oFacilities – Mrs. Kraeger meets weekly with David Rodrigues. There have been no problems across the district. On a recent extremely cold day, a fire alarm at Gaudet School was tripped by a heat sensor. Students were outside for 8 minutes before the Fire Chief gave the all clear to return to the building. Applicants for the Director of Facilities have been reviewed. Interviews will be held soon.

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) William O'Connell. That the School Committee receive the Superintendent's Reports. Unanimous vote.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

•Mr. Arnold attended the Bryant University conference for new School Committee members. He said it was very informative and focused on leadership and building consensus.

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) William O'Connell. That the School Committee go into Executive Session at 6:25 p.m. Unanimous vote.

Return from Executive Session.

Mrs. Simeone announced that a unanimous vote was taken regarding school safety plans.

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) William O'Connell. To seal the minutes of Executive Session. Unanimous vote.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1)William O'Connell, 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from the School Committee Meeting at 6:40 p.m. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk